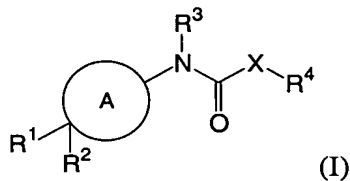
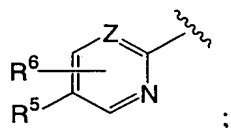


CLAIMS

1. A compound of the formula (I):



wherein R¹ represents



R⁵ represents a hydroxy group or an alkylsulfonylamino group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

- 10 R⁶ and R⁷ independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or, when Z represents a carbon atom and R⁶ is ortho to Z, R⁶ and Z taken together may form a fused phenyl group or a saturated or partially unsaturated cyclic ring having
- 15 from 4 to 7 carbon atoms;

V represents an alkylene group having from 1 to 2 carbon atoms, imino, imino substituted with an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

W represents a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

- 20 Z represents a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

with the proviso that W and Z do not simultaneously represent a carbon atom;

R² represents a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group or R² forms a covalent bond with ring A:

- 25 R³ represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

A represents a cycloalkylene group having from 3 to 10 carbon atoms or a heterocyclic group having from 4 to 10 atoms;

X represents a covalent bond, an alkylene group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkenylene group having from 2 to 3 carbon atoms, a heteroalkylene group having from 2 to 3 atoms, wherein one of said atoms is replaced by a sulfur atom, an oxygen atom, imino, imino substituted with an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or a sulfonyl group, a cycloalkylene group having from 3 to 10 carbon atoms or a heterocyclic group having from 4 to 10 atoms;

R⁴ represents an aryl group having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms, a heteroaryl group having from 5 to 10 atoms;

said alkylene groups, alkenylene groups, heteroalkylene groups, cycloalkylene groups and heterocyclic groups are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents α ;

said aryl groups having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms and said heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms are unsubstituted or are substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of substituents β ;

said substituents α are selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cyano groups, alkanoylamino groups having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, oxo groups or aryl groups having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms defined above;

said substituents β are selected from the atom consisting of halogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkylthio groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanoyl groups having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, hydroxy groups, cyano groups, aryl groups having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms defined above or heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms defined above;

with the proviso that said aryl groups having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms and said heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms in said substituents α and β are not substituted by an aryl group having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms or heteroaryl groups having from 5 to 10 atoms; and

or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein:

R¹ represents

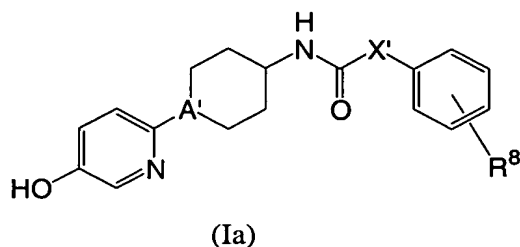
Z represents a carbon atom;

R⁵ represents a hydroxy group; and

R⁶ represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

3. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R² represents a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group.
- 10 4. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R³ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.
- 15 5. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein A represents a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkylene group having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms, or an heterocyclic group having from 4 to 8 atoms which consists of at least one carbon atom and from 1 to 2 nitrogen atoms wherein the substituent is at least one group selected from alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or oxo groups.
- 20 6. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein A represents a cyclohexyl group, a cyclohexenyl group or a piperidinyl group.
7. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein A represents a cyclohexyl group.
- 25 8. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein X represents an alkylene group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, a heteroalkylene group having from 2 to 3 atoms, wherein one of said atoms is replaced by a sulfur atom or an oxygen atom
- 30 9. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein X represents an alkylene group having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms or a heteroalkylene group having from 2 to 3 atoms, wherein one of said atoms is replaced by a sulfur atom.

10. A compound of formula (Ia)



5 wherein

A' represents CH, C(OH), or N;

X' represents ethylene, oxymethylene, methyleneoxy, or methylenethio; and

10 R⁸ represents one or two groups independently selected from hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and halogen atoms or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R⁴ represents a phenyl group, optionally substituted by at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms or alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

12. A compound according to Claim 1 selected from:

N-[*cis*-4-Hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-3-phenylpropanamide hydrochloride;

20 3-(4-Chlorophenyl)-*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;

N-[*cis*-4-Hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-*N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide;

25 *N*-[*trans*-4-(5-Hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-3-phenylpropanamide hydrochloride;

N-[*trans*-4-(5-Hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-*N*-methyl-3-phenylpropanamide hydrochloride;

3-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;

- N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-3-(4-methylphenyl)propanamide;
 3-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
 5 3-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
 3-(4-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
N-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-2-(phenylthio)acetamide;
 10 3-(4-ethylphenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
 3-(2-chlorophenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
 3-(4-chlorophenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
 15 3-(4-methylphenyl)-*N*-[*trans*-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]propanamide;
 3-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[*cis*-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]-*N*-methylpropanamide;
N-[4-(5-Hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohex-3-en-1-yl]-3-phenylpropanamide;
 20 2-fluorobenzyl
 [cis-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]methylcarbamate;
 benzyl [cis-4-hydroxy-4-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)cyclohexyl]methylcarbamate;
 3-(2-fluorophenyl)-*N*-[1-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)piperidin-4-yl]propanamide;
 and
 25 *N*-[1-(5-hydroxypyridin-2-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-3-(4-methylphenyl)propanamide;
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
13. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of disease conditions caused by overactivation of NMDA NR2B receptor, in a mammalian subject, which
 30 comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically

acceptable carrier.

14. A method for the treatment of disease conditions caused by overactivation of NMDA NR2B receptor, in a mammalian subject, which comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
15. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of disease conditions caused by overactivation of NMDA NR2B receptor, in a mammalian subject, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
16. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of disease conditions caused by overactivation of NMDA NR2B receptor, in a mammalian subject, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of such compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.